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SEP 21 2001

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of
George G. Barclay et al
Application No. 09/778,365
Filed: February 8, 2001
Attorney Docket No. 50533

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: DECISION DISMISSING
: PETITION
:
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This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.10(c) filed September 4, 2001, which is properly treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.10 (d), requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of February 7, 2001, rather than the presently accorded filing date of February 8, 2001.

Petitioners request the earlier filing date on the basis that the application was purportedly deposited in Express Mail service on February 7, 2001. In support, the petition is accompanied by a declaration of Deanna Rivernider, a legal assistant to attorney Peter Corless, and a copy of a facsimile letter from the United States Postal Service (USPS) confirming that the package in question was delivered to the PTO on February 8, 2001.

Paragraph (a) of 37 CFR 1.10 states that:

Any correspondence received by the Patent and Trademark Office (Office) that was delivered by the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service (USPS) will be considered filed in the Office on the date of deposit with the USPS. The date of deposit with the USPS is shown by the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official USPS notation. If the USPS deposit date cannot be determined, the correspondence will be accorded the Office receipt date as the filing date. See §1.6(a).

Paragraph (d) of 37 CFR 1.10 states that:

Any person filing correspondence under this section that was received by the Office and delivered by the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the USPS, who can show that the "date-in" on the "Express Mail" mailing label or other official notation entered by the USPS was incorrectly

entered or omitted by the USPS, may petition the Commissioner to accord the correspondence a filing date as of the date the correspondence is shown to have been deposited with the USPS, provided that:

- (1) The petition is filed promptly after the person becomes aware that the Office has accorded, or will accord, a filing date based upon an incorrect entry by the USPS;
- (2) The number of the "Express Mail" mailing label was placed on the paper(s) or fee(s) that constitute the correspondence prior to the original mailing by "Express Mail"; and
- (3) The petition includes a showing which establishes, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, that the requested filing date was the date the correspondence was deposited in "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service prior to the last scheduled pickup for that day. Any showing pursuant to this paragraph must be corroborated by evidence from the USPS or that came into being after deposit and within one business day of the deposit of the correspondence in the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the USPS. Any statement submitted in support of such a showing pursuant to this paragraph must be a verified statement if made by a person other than an employee of the USPS or a practitioner as defined in § 10.1(r) of this chapter.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.10(d) must include "a showing which establishes, to the satisfaction of the Commissioner, that the requested filing date was the date the correspondence was deposited in 'Express Mail Post Office to Addressee' service prior to the last scheduled pickup for that day." In addition, the showing "must be corroborated by evidence from the USPS or that came into being after deposit and within one business day of the deposit of the correspondence in the 'Express Mail Post Office to Addressee' service of the USPS." Evidence from the USPS may be the Express Mail Corporate Account Mailing Statement. Evidence that came into being within one day after the deposit of the correspondence as Express Mail may be in the form of a log book which contains information such the place, date and time of deposit; the time of the last scheduled pick-up for that date; and the date and time of entry in the log.

The petition filed September 4, 2001 is not accompanied by the evidence required by the rule. Accordingly, the petition is dismissed. The \$130.00 petition fee is being credited to counsel's deposit account.

Any request for reconsideration of this decision should be filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the date of this decision in order to be considered timely (see 37 CFR 1.181(f)) and should be addressed as follows:

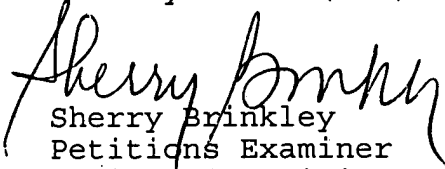
By mail: Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box DAC
Washington, D.C. 20231

By facsimile: (703) 308-6916
Attn: Office of Petitions

By hand: Office of Petitions
2201 South Clark Place
Crystal Plaza 4, Suite 3C23
Arlington, VA 22202

The application is being returned to Initial Patent Examination Division to await petitioners' response to the Notice mailed April 2, 2001.

Telephone inquiries specific to this matter should be directed to Wan Laymon at (703) 306-5685.


Sherry Brinkley
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions
Office of the Deputy Commissioner
for Patent Examination Policy